

general expenses are but some \$250 a-year. There remains the item of "Students' Board." This is not given from College funds in American institutions; but in many of those special funds have been given for the same purpose; and "Education Societies" have been established for this very end; so that promises are publicly held out of adequate help to all who need it. We accomplish the same end by the direct use of College funds—and this makes the aggregate cost *look* rather large. In English institutions, there is a considerable variety of usage. In some, the students are "found" altogether; in others they pay for their board, having rooms free. Few of those who enter our College, are in a position to decline its help for their maintenance. We would, however, take the opportunity of urging on young men the cultivation of the utmost degree of independence and self-help; and upon their relatives and Christian brethren the duty and privilege of giving them private assistance during their studies. We are by no means sure, either, that it is a just policy for the Missionary Society to pursue—to cut down their allowances for vacation-labour to so low a point, that a student cannot, like the ant, "provide his meat in the summer." As it now stands, nearly the whole burden is thrown on the poorer organization. Cannot this be rectified?

Here we must leave the matter for the present. We have written candidly, as to wise men, and faithful brethren. Embarrassments have been experienced before to-day in College financing. Knox College and others in Canada have laboured under them for years. But we look for brighter days, and that without much longer waiting.

LESSONS FROM THE SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

We have narrated, on another page, the proceedings of the late Sabbath School Convention in Toronto. But the occasion has suggested some reflections to which we will also devote a little further space.

There have been not a few who have doubted the value of such meetings. But it is a striking fact, that their scepticism very rarely survives a personal attendance at one of them. As the sun is seen by its own light, and as the Bible is its own best evidence, so a convention is the best argument for a convention. "I have never been to a convention before," said a representative of a very large class, the other day, "but I mean to go to every one that is held after this." There is an inspiration in the very presence of such numbers of labourers in a good cause; the mere sight of them is enough to kindle the heart. No chords in that "harp of thousand strings"—a human soul—vibrate so quickly as those which are connected with the children. A depth and tenderness and permanence of feeling are evoked on their behalf, which no other interest can command. At the same time, Sabbath School work is often lonely work. Every teacher is alone in his class; many are members of small schools, carried on with much difficulty. The sense of weakness and insignificance becomes often actually oppressive. But when these scattered individuals and parties are massed together for a time, and